

REMARKS

The Present Invention

The present invention relates to a polybenzazole article that comprises a polybenzazole and a light-resisting agent.

The Pending Claims

Claims 1-3 and 6 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims

The claims have been amended so as to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the light-resisting agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of aniline, *o*-phenylenediamine, *m*-phenylenediamine, *p*-phenylenediamine, *o*-aminophenol, *m*-aminophenol, *p*-aminophenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-4-sulfonamide, and 1,8-diaminonaphthalene. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 18-21 and lines 37-38 and Examples 1-9. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. The precise amendments to the claims, as well as the text of the pending claims as amended, are set forth on attachments hereto.

Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner objects to the specification because the originally filed specification allegedly does not support the claims as amended. In this same context, claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not enabled by the specification. In addition, claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of, So et al. (U.S. Patent 5,552,221).

Discussion of the Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification on the grounds that the specification does not support the phrase "the light-resisting agent does not comprise a dye." In view of the amended claims, this objection is moot.

Discussion of the Section 112, First Paragraph, Rejection

The claims are rejected under section 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not enabled by the specification because of a negative limitation in claim 1. The rejection should be withdrawn since the negative limitation has been removed by way of the amended claims.

Discussion of the Section 102/103 Rejection

The pending claims recite that the light-resisting agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of aniline, *o*-phenylenediamine, *m*-phenylenediamine, *p*-phenylenediamine, *o*-aminophenol, *m*-aminophenol, *p*-aminophenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-4-sulfonamide, and 1,8-diaminonaphthalene. So et al. discloses a polybenzazole dope used to prepare the filament containing at least about 0.5 wt.% of a dye compound. This dye compound is exemplified by naphthols, Acid Blacks, Blues, Fuchsins, Greens, Oranges, Reds, Violets, Yellows, Primulin, Nuclear Fast Red, Eosin Y, Naphthol Yellow S, Rhodamine B, and the like (see, for example, col. 6, lines 30-38). So et al. does not disclose the use of aniline, *o*-phenylenediamine, *m*-phenylenediamine, *p*-phenylenediamine, *o*-aminophenol, *m*-aminophenol, *p*-aminophenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-4-sulfonamide, or 1,8-diaminonaphthalene at all, let alone the use of any of these compounds in the context of a light-resisting agent. Therefore, the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the disclosure of So et al. and is not anticipated by it.

The present invention, as defined by the pending claims, also is not obvious in view of So et al. So et al. does not disclose the use of aniline, *o*-phenylenediamine, *m*-phenylenediamine, *p*-phenylenediamine, *o*-aminophenol, *m*-aminophenol, *p*-aminophenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-4-sulfonamide, or 1,8-diaminonaphthalene as a light-resisting agent. Nothing in So et al. suggests modifying the light-resisting agents disclosed therein (i.e., the use of dyes), let alone in the manner necessary to yield the claimed invention, or the benefits of doing so (which are set out in the specification of the present application). Therefore, in the absence of such a teaching or suggestion, So et al. cannot be said to render the present invention obvious.

Since the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, is novel and unobvious in view of the teachings of So et al., Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

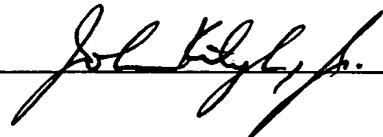

John Klyk, Jr., Reg. No. 30,763
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: July 16, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: July 16, 2002



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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1711

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 203924

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kodama et al.

Art Unit: 1711

Application No. 09/502,834

Examiner: D. Truong

Filed: February 11, 2000

For: POLYBENZAZOLE ARTICLE
AND PRODUCTION METHOD
THEREOF

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS MADE IN
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2002

*(Deletions indicated by crossed-out text,
while insertions are indicated by underlined text)*

1. (Twice Amended) A polybenzazole article superior in light resistance, which comprises a polybenzazole and a light-resisting agent that allows for a regular reflectance of the article of not more than 30% in not less than 30% of the wavelength region of from 450 nm to 700 nm, wherein the light-resisting agent ~~comprises an aromatic amine or phenol with the proviso that the light-resisting agent does not comprise a dye~~ is at least one member selected from the group consisting of aniline, o-phenylenediamine, m-phenylenediamine, p-phenylenediamine, o-aminophenol, m-aminophenol, p-aminophenol, 2-amino-4-nitrophenol, 2-amino-4-sulfonamide, and 1,8-diaminonaphthalene.

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